



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
2 NAVY ANNEX  
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

MCO 5410.12  
AAS-3-klm  
18 Nov 1981

MARINE CORPS ORDER 5410.12 W/CH 1

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Distribution List

Subj: Marine Corps Participation in Aerial Events and Static Displays

Ref: (a) MCO P5720.60

Encl: (1) Event Participation and Approval Requirements

1. Purpose. The Marine Corps participates in aerial events and static displays to keep the public informed of United States preparedness, demonstrate modern weapons system, and enhance community and international relations. Over the years the number of public events which have utilized aerial events or static displays has increased significantly. As the frequency of such events has increased, so has the number of aircraft mishaps. This alarming increase mandates the promulgation of specific instructions to enhance and promote safety at these events. This Order establishes the operational/safety aspects for participation in public events and community relation programs addressed in the reference and directed by the Secretary of Defense.

2. Definitions

a. Aerial Event. Any aerial activity by Marine Corps aircraft or personnel taking part in public events and community relations programs.

(1) Aerial Review. A flyover of multiple numbers or types of Marine Corps aircraft.

(2) Aircraft Demonstration. The demonstration of operational capabilities by a single aircraft or group of aircraft, not part of an officially designated flight demonstration team.

(3) Flight Team Demonstration. A demonstration by the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Team (Blue Angels) or the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron (Thunderbirds) or other service teams.

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(4) Flyover. A flight of no more than four aircraft same type, making of the one pass only over a fixed point at a specified time, and not involving aerobatics or aircraft demonstration.

(5) Parachute Jump, Equipment Drop, Rappelling or Special Patrol Insertion/Extraction (SPIE) Demonstration. Any parachute jump, equipment drop, rappelling or SPIE demonstration by Marine Corps personnel or aircraft taking part in public events or community relations programs.

(6) Weapons Demonstration. Any demonstration employing or simulating the use of munitions or weapons.

b. On Base. An installation owned or operated by the Department of Defense (DOD) or by a DOD component, such as a base, station, post, reservation, camp, fort, terminal, facility, ship, school, college.

c. Off Base. Any location, other than a military installation, at or on which community relations programs might be conducted.

d. Static Display. The ground display of any aircraft and its related equipment, not involving flight, taxi, or engine starts.

### 3. Responsibilities

#### a. Headquarters Marine Corps

(1) Evaluate requests for all off base aerial events and static displays to determine feasibility and extent of participation in accordance with provisions of the reference.

(2) Advise subordinate commands of approved events and solicit their support. Support of approved events shall not interfere with operational commitments or scheduled training programs.

#### b. Force Commanders (FMFPac, FMFLant, 4th MAW, 4th Div)

(1) Evaluate request for all on base aerial events and static displays to determine feasibility and extent of participation in accordance with provisions of the reference.

(2) Coordinate with CMC (Code A) and other agencies to determine the extent of authorized participation.

(3) Advise subordinate commands of approved events and solicit their support. Support of approved events shall not interfere with operational commitments or scheduled training programs.

(4) Notify CMC (Code ASM) when subordinate command(s) commit resources, specifying the number and type of aircraft and/or equipment.

c. Subordinate Commands (All Wings, Divisions, Brigades). Each command that takes part in or supports an event:

(1) Shall appoint a command project officer to plan, coordinate, brief on all events and act as the event commander.

(2) Provide required resources to complete the mission.

(3) Prepare either a Letter of Instruction (LOI) or an operations plan and/or order(s) in support of the event outlining all aspects of the event.

(4) Provide support facilities for the event. The participating command will arrange for support beyond the capability of the event site.

(5) Ensure that aircraft and equipment are representative of the U.S. Marine Corps.

(6) Ensure aircrew, ground personnel and participants are selected on the basis of military bearing, ability to communicate with the public, and knowledge of equipment. Further, ensure that proper flight or duty uniform/equipment is worn. May be delegated to the participating unit.

(7) Ensure event sponsor coordinates all public event aerial activity with the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA), through the regional representative. May be delegated to the participating unit.

(8) Ensure proper performance specification placards are available for each aircraft or equipment involved in the static display.

(9) Review subordinate command(s) operations plans for each event and ensure all safety aspects of the event have been reviewed.

d. Event Commander. The event commander shall be a senior officer (shall be a designated naval aviator or naval

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flight officer for all aerial events) who shall act as the on scene commander responsible for the overall safety and conduct of the event, or static display as defined in paragraph 2 above. Responsibilities will include but not be limited to:

(1) Making the "go" or "no go" weather decision.

(2) Ensuring that required FAA coordination and approval has been obtained by event sponsor.

(3) Ensuring that all mission details are operationally feasible and all necessary coordination is effected to ensure a safe execution of all states of the scheduled event.

#### 4. General

a. Use of Resources. The Marine Corps takes part in aerial events and static displays in accordance with the procedures and policies outlined in the reference and the enclosure of this Order.

(1) Static Displays. Static displays are the primary method of Marine Corps participation in public events and community relations programs.

(2) Flyovers. Flyovers are considered a secondary method of Marine Corps participation. Each commander must evaluate all requests for impact on safety, fuel conservation, flying hour program(s), training, public reaction, and possible benefits to the U.S. Marine Corps. See the enclosure for proper approving procedures.

(3) Aircraft Demonstrations. The Navy Demonstration Team (Blue Angels) is the primary unit authorized to exhibit publicly the capabilities of modern, high performance aircraft and the high degree of skill required to operate these aircraft. Aircraft demonstrations, other than the use of the AV8 (Harrier), are not authorized at locations where a bona fide aerial demonstration is scheduled. AV8 (Harrier) demonstrations may only be conducted as authorized by the reference and in accordance with this Order.

(4) Support requests must be submitted to the approving authority at least 90 days before the event date. CMC (Code ASM/PA) shall be included as an information addressee on all requests.

b. Safety Standards and General Requirements. The following safety standards must be considered in planning and staging each event:

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(1) Weather Minimums. At least a 2500-foot ceiling and 5-mile visibility are required for any aerial event. The nature of the event, local area terrain, or numerous other factors may require the event commander to set higher minima.

(2) Altitude. Minimum altitudes published in FAA regulations shall be followed, unless the FAA grants a certificate of waiver before the event that specifies a lower minimum altitude. If FAA authorizes a lower altitude, U.S. Marine Corps-controlled aircraft shall not be flown below the following minimum altitudes, above the highest obstruction:

(a) Aircraft Formation

1 Fixed-wing - 800 feet above ground level  
(AGL)

2 Helicopter - 500 feet AGL

(b) Single aircraft

1 Fixed-wing - 500 feet AGL

## 2 Helicopter - 250 feet AGL

(c) Demonstrations. All aircraft demonstrations must follow a command approved profile that specifies the minimum altitude for each maneuver.

(3) Spectator Area. For each aerial event or demonstration, there is normally a designated spectator area. The event commander will ensure that no part of the spectator area is located closer than 1500 feet to the line of flight. Participating aircraft shall not be operated over the designated spectator area. Measures must be taken to ensure all spectators remain within the designated area. Official observers and spectators must occupy only those areas designated for viewing the event. These safety criteria shall be a primary consideration when selecting spectator areas.

(4) Ordnance and Munitions. All aircraft must be down loaded of all expendable ordnance before placing aircraft in a static display area. Permanently mounted internal weapons shall be rendered safe, according to applicable technical procedures. Only inert munitions will be placed on public display. All ordnance, munitions will be secured to ensure safety.

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## (5) Static Display

(a) Fixed-wing aircraft static displays will normally be authorized only at military or joint-use military/civilian airfields. Requests for aircraft displays at civilian airfields are not encouraged; however, when such a display would be favorable to the Marine Corps, the request should be forwarded for consideration. In no Case will fixed-wing aircraft be towed or taxied to nonairfield areas, such as shopping malls, for static display.

(b) Helicopters may be authorized for landing and static display at off base areas for the purpose of participation in a public event. Due to the limited number of these events that can be supported, requests should be carefully screened. At off base areas, aircraft will not be started, taxied, or flown within 100 yards of spectators.

(c) When requesting aircraft for static display, the Sponsor is responsible for ensuring availability of mobile firefighting equipment, medical services, spectator control, and FAA approval, when required.

## (6) Parachute Jump

(a) For public events, parachutists must be qualified military jumpers or be filling designated T/O jump billets, and be authorized to perform parachuting at the requested site. Those individuals designated to perform the parachute demonstration shall have completed a practice parachute exercise within 7 days of the scheduled event.

(b) Parachuting will be authorized only at military/joint-use airfields, military installations and military training sites.

(c) Marine Corps aircraft will not be used as jump platforms for parachute clubs unless the club is sponsored by a military service.

(d) The subordinate commander and event commander are responsible for ensuring the eligibility and qualifications of the parachutists, for providing mobile firefighting equipment, medical services, spectator control, and that FAA approval has been obtained by the event Sponsor, when required.

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(7) Rappelling

(a) Rappellers must be current in their training, be filling T/O billets that require them to perform rappelling, and be authorized to perform rappelling at the requested site. In no case shall the rappeller be a novice, be in training, or perform rappelling only as a hobby. Those individuals designated to perform the rappelling event shall have completed a practice rappelling exercise within 7 days of the scheduled event.

(b) Rappelling will be authorized only at military or joint-use airfields, at military installations, and at military training sites.

(c) Single-engine helicopters shall not be used for rappelling.

(d) The subordinate commander and event commander are responsible for ensuring mobile firefighting equipment, medical services, spectator control and FAA approval, when required.

(8) Equipment Drop

(a) Equipment drop demonstrations will be authorized only at military or joint-use airfields, military installations or at military training sites.

(b) Personnel conducting the equipment drop demonstration will be fully qualified and will have completed a practice drop within 7 days of the demonstration.

(c) The subordinate commander and event commander are responsible for ensuring mobile firefighting equipment, medical services, spectator control and FAA approval, when required.

(9) Special Patrol Insertion/Extraction (SPIE) System

(a) SPIE system demonstrations will be authorized only at military or joint-use airfields, military installations or at military

training sites.

(b) Personnel conducting the SPIE demonstration will be fully qualified and will have completed a practice rigging and lift exercise within 7 days of the demonstration.

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(c) The subordinate commander and event commander are responsible for ensuring mobile firefighting equipment, medical services, spectator control and FAA approval, when required.

(10) Air Speeds. Fixed-wing aircraft, except VSTOL aircraft, shall not perform in aerial events at speeds less than stall speed, plus 30 percent, for the aircraft configuration flown.

(11) Communications. If practical, use discrete frequencies to control aerial events and coordinated events.

5. Reserve Applicability. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.



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SUBJ: MCO 5410.12 CH 1. MARINE CORPS PARTICIPATION IN AERIAL EVENTS  
AND STATIC DISPLAYS (CMC CODE ASA)

1. INSERT FOLLOWING SENTENCE AT END OF PARAGRAPH 4b5(A): "TACTICAL  
FIXED WING (JET) AIRCRAFT WITHOUT VTOL CAPABILITY SHALL NOT BE SCHEDULED  
FOR STATIC DISPLAYS AT AIRFIELDS WITH RUNWAYS UNDER 8000 FEET UNLESS THE  
APPROPRIATE CRASH CREW AND ARRESTING EQUIPMENT ARE AVAILABLE.

A(11), GENDIST

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Event Participation and Approval Requirements

Type Event or Participation	Approval Level	Remarks
Static Display (On Base)	Force CDR	None
Static Display (Off Base)	HQMC	Authorized only at airfields and approved helicopter landing areas. DOD may approve an exception to this policy if the proposed display area



meets operational safety requirements. Requests shall be sent to CMC (Code PA) for approval 90 days before the event date.

Flyover (On Base)	Force CDR	Not more than 4 aircraft making one pass.
Flyover (Off Base)	HQMC	a. Not more than 4 aircraft making one pass, in support of Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day. Request due at HQMC 90 days prior to event.  b. CMC (Code PA) 90 days prior to date for requests other than (a) above to determine extent of participation.
Aircraft Demonstrations (On Base)	Force CDR	a. May approve A/C demonstrations by assigned operational aircraft, on each respective operating base conducted during an open house program.

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Aircraft Demonstrations (On Base contd)	Force CDR	b. Shall not be approved when a bona fide aerial demonstration team is scheduled to perform.
Aircraft Demonstration (Off Base) (less aircraft weapons delivery)	OASD/PA	Forward requests via CMC (Code ASM/PA) 90 days prior to determine extent of participation authorized.
Parachuting	Force CDR (On Base)  HQMC (Off Base)	a. Qualified <sup>1</sup> authorized jumpers who have completed a practice parachute exercise within the last 7 days.  b. Military/joint-use air-

fields, installations and training sites only.

#### Rappelling

Force CDR  
(On Base)  
  
HQMC  
(Off Base)

a. Qualified, authorized rappellers who have completed a practice rappelling exercise within the last 7 days.

b. Military/joint-use airfields, installations and training sites only.

c. Single engine helicopters will not be used.

#### SPIE Rigging

Force CDR  
(On Base)  
  
HQMC  
(Off Base)

a. Qualified, authorized personnel who have completed a practice rigging/lifting exercise within the last 7 days (includes aircrew members of designated exercise aircraft).

b. Military/joint-use airfields, installations and training sites only.

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c. Single engine helicopters will not be used. (NWP 55-9-ASH, Vol 1 (17.5.4.2) applies)

#### Equipment Drop

Force CDR  
(On Base)  
  
HQMC  
(Off Base)

a. Qualified, authorized personnel who have completed a practice drop within the last 7 days.

b. Military/joint-use airfields, installations and training sites only.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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